

# The Farmington Times FARM DEPARTMENT

AUTHORITATIVE ARTICLES PREPARED BY GOVERNMENT AND STATE RESEARCH EXPERTS



## POULTRY CIRCLES HELP FARM INCOME

Excellent Example of Way in Which Home Demonstration Workers Are Aiding Farmers.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Home demonstration workers realize that before substantial improvements can be made in rural home life there must be more cash income with which to install conveniences, correct defects, beautify the surroundings, or improve clothing. On most farms the production and selling of eggs and poultry offer the best immediate possibilities for increasing the income. The home demonstration agents of the United States Department of Agriculture and the state agricultural colleges, therefore have turned their attention to giving help in this field whenever there seemed to be need of it.

The poultry project at Orchard Gardens community, Dakota County, Minn., is an excellent example of the way in which home demonstration work thus meets a real want. The home demonstration agent helped to interest people in poultry raising as a source of income, which would mean income during the winter as well as during the summer.

The poultry project was started by the poultry specialist. During the project the members formed a poultry association. The first work of the association was to pool their orders for feed, thus saving a considerable sum. The second step of the association was to organize an egg circle to make plans for the marketing of the eggs. The egg circle was formed and by-laws adopted, making provision for a guaranty that their product would be of excellent



Flock of Laying Hens in Good Health.

quality. Each member was furnished with a stamp with the name of the egg circle and a number identifying the eggs. In case a bad egg was shipped, it could be traced to the owner.

Through the home demonstration agent a market for the eggs was found with the Women's Community Council of Minneapolis, the office of the Minneapolis home demonstration agent being used as the distributing center. The production from the egg circle soon outgrew this form of marketing and the president of the Orchard Gardens Poultry association then secured a market for the eggs through one of the high-class markets in eggs and butter in Minneapolis.

## BAKED BONES FOR POULTRY

Furnish Mineral Matter Which is of Great Importance—Pound Into Small Crumbs.

Heavy bones of all kinds may be put in shape for chicken feed by baking until brittle, and then rolling or pounding into small crumbs. These baked bones furnish mineral matter which is of great importance in nutrition. Green bone is probably the best source of mineral matter, but green bone is not always at hand, and bones for baking are more or less abundant on every farm.

## LICE ARE QUITE INJURIOUS

Parasites Have Been Known to Destroy Dozens of Turkeys in Short Period of Time.

Experienced turkey breeders agree that lice are the most dangerous to adult turkeys during the fall and winter. They have been known to destroy dozens of birds in a few weeks. The usual reason given is that the turkeys are unable to find dust baths at this season with which to fight the pest in their own way, and consequently, the lice get an unusual foothold.

## PLAN OUTLINED FOR ORGANIZING CLUBS TO PROMOTE GARDEN WORK

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

The United States Department of Agriculture and the state colleges of agriculture are frequently asked for the best method of organizing for garden work. Among the most successful city, town and village organizations, those that are organized on a co-operative basis, including all branches of the local government, the citizens' associations, the merchants' and other business men's associations, also schools and churches, have proven most effective. In order, however, to centralize the direction of the work the United States Department of Agriculture advises that a special garden committee or governing board be appointed. Under the direction of this committee, or board, all matters pertaining to securing the use of land, the purchase of seeds, fertilizers, plants and other materials are handled and the general supervision of the garden work maintained.

### Formation of Club.

Where the work has not already been started, the formation of the organization should be perfected before the garden season begins, and all arrangements for the use of land and the purchase of materials consummated before they will be wanted. Someone, usually a public-spirited citizen, who can spare time for the work, should be appointed as director or

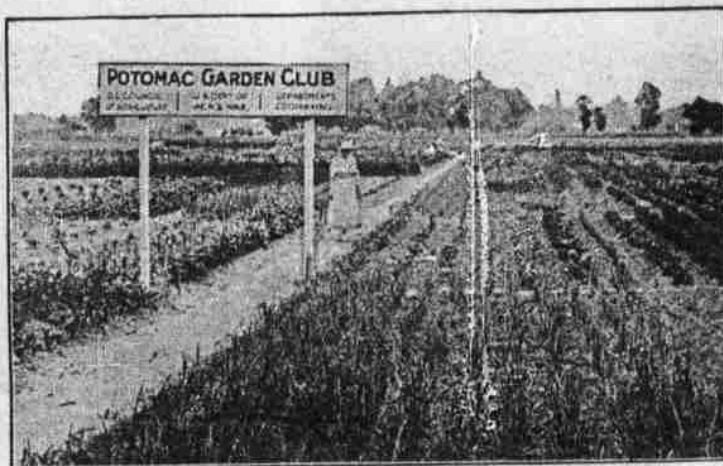
den, but rarely more than \$3. Any funds that are left in the treasury at the end of the season can be used for promoting the garden movement the following year or returned to the gardeners.

Success in organizing city, town or village garden work depends upon leadership, and the harmonious working together of all concerned. One of the most successful garden clubs of which there is record is governed by a board of nine directors who are elected annually by ballot. The directors elect a chairman, secretary and treasurer, who constitute the officers of the club. This club has been in existence for several years and has grown stronger in its organization each year.

The formation of clubs consisting of those who plant gardens in their back yards is a little more difficult and must include provision for rendering a distinct service to its members. This service may consist of the purchase of manure or fertilizers, plowing the back yards, and supplying early plants or seeds. The gardeners must be made to feel that they are getting something in return for their participation in the club and the payment of dues, otherwise little interest will be taken in the organization.

### Co-Operative Spraying.

In a few instances the spraying of crops to control insects and diseases



Potomac Park Gardens Near Washington on June 30, 1920, on Land Where Clearing Began March 22.

chairman of the board. A membership fee of 50 cents to \$1 is frequently paid by those who plant gardens and who receive benefit from the organization.

In some cases a special trained garden tender has been hired to give information and help to those who need it. Very often this supervisor has been employed for a few months only, but this type of supervision pays, provided the person employed understands his business. In most cases prizes have been offered by the merchants and business interests, first, for the best individual gardens, both in back yards and on vacant land, and, second, for the various products of the gardens. Usually an exhibit is held at some convenient time during the latter part of the garden season, and a contest between the gardeners is staged. These exhibits and contests have been of wonderful value in promoting a spirit of rivalry to produce the best. As a rule, however, the gardeners have considered the garden products as they came upon their home tables the greatest reward for their efforts.

Where a group of gardens is located on one piece of land it is often necessary to provide special means for financing the clearing, plowing and fitting the soil and later for policing the gardens to prevent losses, either from stray live stock or from theft. The fees collected from each gardener to cover these costs have varied in different instances from \$1 to \$5 per garden.

has been handled in a co-operative way, using power sprayers which go over the gardens at such stated intervals as may be necessary for good results. These power sprayers are simply driven into the alleys, and lines of hose discharging the spray mixture carried into the gardens. In this way effective spraying can be secured at a less cost than if the gardeners provided spray equipment to do the work themselves. There are numerous other ways in which back yard gardeners can secure benefits from organized efforts. The greatest opening, however, for active organization in the home garden line is among those who plan gardens on a community basis.

### Protein and Silage.

Raise alfalfa and soy beans to supply the protein you need and corn for silage, and it will not be necessary to pay out cash for concentrates shipped in from a distance.

### Succession of Crops.

As soon as one vegetable is harvested another should be planted in its place. Rotation of crops is advisable throughout the year.

### To Balance Farm Manure.

It is a pretty good idea, and one followed by a lot of hard-headed, practical farmers, to balance the barnyard manure a little with either rock or acid phosphate.

## Record Invaluable in Arranging Work

It Is Often Means of Saving Labor Costs.

Farmer Enabled to Determine Number of Days Necessary to Produce an Acre of Any Crop, or for Care of Animals.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Keeping a record of farm labor does not require much time, yet it is often the means of saving labor costs. The United States Department of Agriculture has found such records of great value in the cases of many farmers whose experience has come to its notice. The labor records should show just how much man labor and team work is required on each crop and the season when it is used. They should show what proportion of the labor is devoted to work that directly produces income, and the

amount that is consumed by odd jobs or indirectly productive tasks.

This will enable the farmer to determine the number of days of man labor and horse labor necessary to produce an acre of any crop, or for the care of any class of animals for a year. Thus he may be able to rearrange his system of management so that he can get along with less labor and, at the same time, maintain production.

A year's labor records show, also, just how much man power and horse power is necessary to run the entire farm at different seasons, and point out accurately just what are the requirements of the rush seasons. With such records before him, the farmer knows in advance approximately what his labor requirements will be when the peak load comes. Thus he is able to increase or decrease the different farm enterprises and fit them together until he has outlined a complete year's work with a fairly even load of labor for the entire season.



## CLEAN PACKAGE FOR BUTTER

Carefully Packed Product Gives More Enjoyment to Consumer Than Slip-Shod Parcel.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

For the same reason that a man prefers to eat his meals from a clean tablecloth he prefers to get the butter he eats in a clean and attractive package—it helps him to get more enjoyment from his food and that means he really gets more value out of it, even though carelessly packed products may contain just as much food value as those that are put up carefully.

The package into which butter is put is of more importance than most



Working Butter Before Putting in Package.

food packages, because the product which it holds is extremely sensitive to outside influences, especially odors. Men who have made a business of studying market conditions and methods have long given attention to the package problem and they are still at it. This year at the National Dairy show, held in St. Paul, Minn., October 8 to 15, the United States Department of Agriculture had an unusual show of butter packages that proved of as much interest as a lot of curios. The department has collected packages from the various countries of the world that make butter in considerable quantities, and they were shown in comparison with packages that are used in our own country. In addition there were examples of good and of poor packing.

## FAVOR SWEET-CREAM BUTTER

Product in Storage for Year at Norfolk, Va., Scores Higher Than That on New York Market.

After remaining in storage for one year, samples of sweet-cream butter recently inspected at Norfolk, Va., scored higher than the highest score for butter quoted on the New York market. These samples, which received scores averaging 93.47, were representative of 1,000,000 pounds of butter packed for the United States navy under the supervision of the United States Department of Agriculture. The scoring was done by a specialist from the dairy division and a representative of a commercial butter firm in New York city.

"This butter, which was made for the navy last year," said the inspectors, "was of such fine quality that we cannot neglect the opportunity to comment upon the comparatively small amount of extra work required to produce a product of this quality as compared with the average butter found on the large markets."

This butter was made from a perfectly sweet cream, with a comparatively high salt content and low moisture. The moisture content did not exceed 13.5 per cent. After one year in storage only one sample scored as low as 92%. Of the other 50 samples, 24 scored 94, two scored 93% and 24 scored 93.

Consumers who are accustomed to a pronounced flavor in butter do not at first show favor to sweet-cream butter as it is somewhat lacking in this respect when fresh. A demand for sweet-cream butter, however, is growing steadily, according to butter dealers handling this product. On being held in storage the flavor becomes more pronounced, and for this reason sweet-cream butter is often scored higher after storage than when fresh. For storage purposes such a butter is far superior to the ordinary butter, which usually loses in quality during the storage period.

# ALABASTINE

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## KING PIN PLUG TOBACCO

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Whipping Ended Romance.

This little episode in my life occurred when I was but six years of age. A neighbor's boy, Jack, and I loved each other. All was settled between us that we should get married and start housekeeping in our coal house, which was not used during the summer. We had to furnish our house first. All went on well until our parents began missing things—dishes, etc. A whipping apace and our romance ended.—Chicago Journal.

The Joy of Hardships.

After a man has once succeeded he always gets a lot of pleasure recalling the struggles and failures he has been through.

Not Carnivorous.

"Do you ever eat chestnuts?" "No, I'm a strict vegetarian."—Boston Transcript.

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